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Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

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COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE
Twenty-fourth session
Geneva, 1-19 May 2000

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The twenty-fourth session of the Committee against Torture will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 19 May 2000. The first meeting of the session will be convened on Monday, 1 May 2000, at 10 a.m.

2. In accordance with rule 6 of the rules of procedure, the Secretary-General has prepared, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the attached provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session. Annotations to the provisional agenda are also attached.

3. Pursuant to rule 31 of the rules of procedure, the meetings of the Committee will be held in public unless the Committee decides otherwise or it appears from the relevant provisions of the Convention that the meetings should be held in private.

4. The attention of the States parties is drawn, in particular, to the annotations to item 7, which contain the tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the twenty-fourth session. In accordance with rule 66 of the rules of procedure, representatives of States parties are invited to attend the meetings of the Committee when their reports are examined.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General.
2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee, as well as by a member appointed under article 17, paragraph 6, of the Convention.
3. Election of the officers of the Committee.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Organizational and other matters.
6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.
7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention.
8. Consideration of information received under article 20 of the Convention.
9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention.
10. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.
11. Annual report of the Committee on its activities.

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the session by the representative of the Secretary-General

The twenty-fourth session of the Committee will be opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who will preside over the meeting until the election of the Chairman of the Committee.

2. Solemn declaration by the newly elected members of the Committee as well as by a member appointed under article 17, paragraph 6, of the Convention

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure (CAT/C/3/Rev.3), the five members of the Committee elected or re-elected at the Seventh Meeting of the States parties to the Convention on 24 November 1999 will make the following solemn declaration:

> "I solemnly declare that I will perform my duties and exercise my powers as a member of the Committee against Torture honourably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously."

Following the resignation of Mr. Bent Sorensen from the Committee and in accordance with article 17, paragraph 6, of the Convention and rule 13 of the rules of procedure, a national of Denmark will be appointed as a member of the Committee to serve for the remainder of the term of Mr. Sorensen, which will expire on 31 December 2001. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the newly appointed member will make the solemn declaration appearing above.

3. Election of the officers of the Committee

In accordance with article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and rules 15 and 16 of the rules of procedure, the Committee shall elect from among its members a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur. The officers of the Committee shall be elected for a term of two years.

4. Adoption of the agenda

Under rule 8 of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda shall follow the election of officers when required under rule 15. In accordance with rule 9, during a session the Committee may revise the agenda and may, as appropriate, defer or delete items; only urgent and important items may be added to the agenda.

5. Organizational and other matters

Under this item, the Committee may wish to consider its programme of work for the session, as well as any other matter concerning the modalities of discharging its functions under the Convention.

6. Submission of reports by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

It may be recalled that, in accordance with rule 65 of its rules of procedure and the Committee's decisions, the Secretary-General sends reminders automatically to those States parties whose initial reports are more than 12 months overdue and subsequent reminders every 6 months. In addition, the Committee includes information on non-compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations in its annual report to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

The situation with regard to overdue reports as at 1 February 2000 is as follows:

State party	Initial reports	Date on which the report was due
Uganda		25 June 1988
Togo		17 December 1988
Guyana		17 June 1989
Brazil		27 October 1990
Guinea		8 November 1990
Somalia		22 February 1991
Estonia		19 November 1992
Yemen		4 December 1992
Bosnia and Herzegovina		5 March 1993
Benin		10 April 1993
Latvia		13 May 1993
Seychelles		3 June 1993
Cape Verde		3 July 1993
Cambodia		13 November 1993
Burundi		19 March 1994
Slovakia		27 May 1994
Antigua and Barbuda		17 August 1994
Costa Rica		10 December 1994
Ethiopia		12 April 1995
Albania		9 June 1995
Chad		9 July 1995
Republic of Moldova		27 December 1996
Côte d'Ivoire		16 January 1997
Lithuania		1 March 1997
Democratic Republic of the Congo		16 April 1997
Malawi		10 July 1997
Honduras		3 January 1998
Kenya		22 March 1998
Saudi Arabia		21 October 1998
Bahrain		4 April 1999
Kazakhstan		24 September 1999
Bangladesh		3 November 1999
Niger		3 November 1999
Zambia		5 November 1999
Indonesia		26 November 1999
South Africa		8 January 2000

State party	Second periodic reports	Date on which the report was due
Afghanistan		25 June 1992
Belize		25 June 1992
Philippines		25 June 1992
Uganda		25 June 1992
Togo		17 December 1992
Guyana		17 June 1993
Turkey		31 August 1993
Brazil		27 October 1994
Guinea		8 November 1994
Somalia		22 February 1995
Romania		16 January 1996
Nepal		12 June 1996
Venezuela		27 August 1996
Yugoslavia		9 October 1996
Estonia		19 November 1996
Yemen		4 December 1996
Jordan		12 December 1996
Monaco		4 January 1997
Bosnia and Herzegovina		5 March 1997
Benin		10 April 1997
Latvia		13 May 1997
Seychelles		3 June 1997
Cape Verde		3 July 1997
Cambodia		13 November 1997
Czech Republic		31 December 1997
Burundi		19 March 1998
Slovakia		27 May 1998
Slovenia		14 August 1998
Antigua and Barbuda		17 August 1998
Costa Rica		10 December 1998
Sri Lanka		1 February 1999
Ethiopia		12 April 1999
Albania		9 June 1999
United States of America		19 November 1999
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia		11 December 1999
Namibia		27 December 1999
	Third periodic reports	
Afghanistan		25 June 1996
Belize		25 June 1996
Bulgaria		25 June 1996
Cameroon		25 June 1996
France		25 June 1996
Philippines		25 June 1996
Russian Federation		25 June 1996
Senegal		25 June 1996
Uganda		25 June 1996

State party	Third periodic reports (cont'd)	Date on which the report was due
Uruguay		25 June 1996
Austria		27 August 1996
Luxembourg		28 October 1996
Togo		17 December 1996
Colombia		6 January 1997
Ecuador		28 April 1997
Guyana		17 June 1997
Turkey		31 August 1997
Tunisia		22 October 1997
Chile		29 October 1997
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		14 June 1998
Australia		6 September 1998
Algeria		11 October 1998
Brazil		27 October 1998
Guinea		8 November 1998
New Zealand		8 January 1999
Somalia		22 February 1999
Malta		12 October 1999
Germany		30 October 1999
Liechtenstein		1 December 1999
Romania		16 January 2000

7. Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

A tentative timetable for the consideration of reports at the twenty-fourth session, prepared by the Secretary-General, and subject to approval by the Committee, is given below:

Tuesday, 2 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Poland: third periodic report	CAT/C/44/Add.5
Wednesday, 3 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Portugal: second periodic report	CAT/C/44/Add.7
3 p.m.	Poland (continued)	
Thursday, 4 May 2000		
10 a.m.	China: third periodic report	CAT/C/39/Add.2
3 p.m.	Portugal (continued)	

Friday, 5 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Paraguay: third periodic report	CAT/C/49/Add.1
3 p.m.	Poland (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	China (continued)	
Monday, 8 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Armenia: second periodic report	CAT/C/43/Add.3
3 p.m.	Portugal (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	Paraguay (continued)	
Tuesday, 9 May 2000		
10 a.m.	El Salvador: initial report	CAT/C/37/Add.4
3 p.m.	China (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	Armenia (continued)	
Wednesday, 10 May 2000		
10 a.m.	United States of America: initial report	CAT/C/28/Add.5
3 p.m.	Paraguay (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	El Salvador (continued)	
Thursday, 11 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Netherlands: third periodic report	CAT/C/44/Add.4
3 p.m.	Armenia (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	United States of America (continued)	
Friday, 12 May 2000		
10 a.m.	Slovenia: initial report	CAT/C/24/Add.5
3 p.m.	El Salvador (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	Netherlands (continued)	
Monday, 15 May 2000		
3 p.m.	United States of America (conclusions and recommendations)	
3.30 p.m.	Slovenia (continued)	

Tuesday, 16 May 2000

3 p.m. Netherlands (conclusions and recommendations)

Wednesday, 17 May 2000

3 p.m. Slovenia (conclusions and recommendations)

8. Consideration of information received under article 20 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XVII of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item information which is, or appears to be, submitted for its consideration under article 20 of the Convention.

In accordance with the provisions of article 20, paragraph 5, of the Convention and rules 72 and 73 of the rules of procedure, all documents and proceedings of the Committee relating to its functions under article 20 of the Convention shall be confidential and all the meetings concerning its proceedings under that article shall be closed.

9. Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention

In accordance with the provisions of chapter XIX of its rules of procedure, the Committee will consider under this item communications which are, or appear to be, submitted to it under article 22 of the Convention.

In accordance with article 22, paragraph 6, of the Convention and rule 101, paragraph 1, of the rules of procedure, meetings of the Committee or its subsidiary bodies during which communications under article 22 of the Convention are examined shall be closed.

10. Action by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

(a) Annual report submitted by the Committee against Torture under article 24 of the Convention;*

(b) Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights.

Under this item, the Committee will have before it the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session and the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-sixth session.

11. Annual report of the Committee on its activities

In accordance with article 24 of the Convention, the Committee shall submit an annual report on its activities to the States parties and to the General Assembly.

At its second session, the Committee decided to adopt its annual report at the end of its spring session, for appropriate transmission to the General Assembly during the same calendar year. Accordingly, the annual report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session will include the activities of the Committee at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions.

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* Official Records of the General Assembly, fifty-fourth session, Supplement No. 44 (A/54/44).